

Minutes Town Council Regular Meeting March 11, 2021

Valerie Molina
Mayor

Ricardo Vital
Vice Mayor

Mary Bravo
Councilmember

Gloria Cota
Councilmember

Elvira Osuna
Councilmember

Joe Sánchez
Councilmember

Anita Cota Soto
Councilmember

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Town Council Chambers
9241 S. Avenida del Yaqui
Guadalupe, AZ 85283
Phone: (480) 730-3080
Fax: (480)-505-5368

Minutes of the Guadalupe Town Council Regular Meeting held on Thursday, March 11, 2021, at 6:00 P.M., at Guadalupe Town Hall, 9241 South Avenida del Yaqui, Museum Room, Guadalupe, Arizona.

A. Vice Mayor Vital called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Vice Mayor Ricardo Vital. The following councilmembers participated via video conference: Councilmember Mary Bravo, Councilmember Joe Sánchez, and Councilmember Anita Cota Soto

Councilmembers Absent: Mayor Valerie Molina, Councilmember Gloria Cota, and Councilmember Elvira Osuna

Staff Present: Jeff Kulaga – Town Manager / Clerk and Jennifer Drury – Assistant to the Town Manager; Cachi Castorena, MCSO Deputy, and, David Ledyard – Town Attorney via video conference.

C. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Councilmember Soto provided the invocation. Vice Mayor Vital then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Approval of the February 25, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

Motion by Councilmember Soto to approve agenda item D1; second by Councilmember Bravo. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 4-0.

1. Councilmembers approved the February 25, 2021, Town Council Regular Meeting Minutes.

E. CALL TO THE PUBLIC: No one spoke.

F. MAYOR and COUNCIL PRESENTATIONS: None.

G. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

1. COVID-19 ACTION UPDATE

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, provided an update from Town staff regarding current steps taken to safeguard public health and safety in response to the Coronavirus and its impact to Town services. Mr. Kulaga noted that the Arizona State Department of Health and Maricopa County provide on-line vaccination scheduling information. With the assistance of community partners, on March 4, 2021, 104 Town residents were vaccinated. The virus positive case rates have declined.

With the passage of the \$1.9 trillion American Relief Plan, Arizona cities and towns will receive \$1.2 billion, collectively. The Town's share of this funding is \$1,582,256. Funding will be dispersed to cities and towns at 50% over the next two fiscal years. Mr. Kulaga outlined funding options for future consideration, and prohibited expenditures as outlined by the Federal government. Funding options will be explored further during upcoming budget discussions. The League of Arizona Cities and Towns is working through the legislative details and funding requirements. American Relief Plan funds cannot be used to cut taxes or to pay pension obligations.



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In response to a question, disbursement of American Relief Plan funds is based on population and includes counties in Arizona as well as the State of Arizona.

2. PROPOSED 2021 GAMING GRANT APPLICATIONS

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, presented the proposed 2021 gaming grant applications which include twelve individual grant applications for Town services, programs, equipment, and infrastructure needs totaling \$751,000. Mr. Kulaga then reviewed 2018 – 2020 gaming grants that have been awarded to the Town, totaling \$674,000.

In response to a question regarding how items would be funded if the gaming grants are not awarded, Mr. Kulaga stated that funding would likely be coming from the Town's General Fund, and some of the items may not be pursued due to lack of funding.

3. AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY GAMING GRANT (RESOLUTION NO. R2021.02)

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, stated that the next five agenda items are resolutions for gaming grant applications.

Motion by Councilmember Bravo to adopt Resolution No. R2021.02, Ak-Chin Indian Community; Resolution No. R2021.03, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation; Resolution No. R2021.04, Gila River Indian Community; Resolution No. R2021.05, Pascua Yaqui Tribe; and, Resolution No. R2021.06, Tohono O'odham Nation – agenda items G3 – G7; second by Councilmember Sanchez. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 4-0.

Councilmembers adopted **RESOLUTION NO. R2021.02** authorizing the submittal of an application for a grant of \$130,000 from the Ak-Chin Indian Community for Fire Department First Responder Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment and a Small Business Development and Assistance program; and directed the Mayor, or designee, to sign all necessary documents in furtherance of this grant application.

4. FORT MCDOWELL YAVAPAI NATION GAMING GRANT (RESOLUTION NO. R2021.03)

Councilmembers adopted **RESOLUTION NO. R2021.03** authorizing the submittal of an application for a grant of \$155,000 from the Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation for a Fire Department replacement Command/Community Response vehicle for public safety purposes and a Senior Center Meal Program; and directed the Mayor, or designee, to sign all necessary documents in furtherance of this grant application.

5. GILA RIVER INDIAN COMMUNITY GAMING GRANT (RESOLUTION NO. R2021.04)

Councilmembers adopted **RESOLUTION NO. R2021.04** authorizing the submittal of an application for a grant of \$151,000 from the Gila River Indian Community for Cultural Heritage Events Programming, Community Action Program Family Assistance Resources, and Public Works utility equipment replacement; and directed the Mayor, or designee, to sign all necessary documents in furtherance of this grant application.

6. PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE GAMING GRANT (RESOLUTION NO. R2021.05)

Councilmembers adopted **RESOLUTION NO. R2021.05** authorizing the submittal of an application for a grant of \$170,000 from the Pascua Yaqui Tribe for the Community Action Program Food Distribution Program and associated supplies, Fire Department Self Contained Breathing Apparatus equipment, and Cultural Event public safety services; and directed the Mayor, or designee, to sign all necessary documents in furtherance of this grant application.

7. TOHONO O'ODHAM NATION GAMING GRANT (RESOLUTION NO. R2021.06)

Councilmembers adopted **RESOLUTION NO. R2021.06** authorizing the submittal of an application for a grant of \$145,000 from the Tohono O'odham Nation for Senior Center Elder Activity Programming and a Fire Truck payment; and directed the Mayor, or designee, to sign all necessary documents in furtherance of this grant application.



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8. AVENIDA DEL YAQUI STREET IMPROVEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, provided an update of the Avenida del Yaqui Street Improvement Project (Project). The Project will resurface the roadway pavement, install new curbs and gutters, sidewalks, driveways and striped bicycle facilities (designated bicycle lanes), new traffic control signs and enhanced pedestrian crosswalks. The Project improvements will comply with the Adults with Disabilities Act requirements.

Project constraints include funding, private property, street width/lighting, utility poles and bus stops, and the project schedule. The project is within the existing Town rights-of-way, with a minimal need to acquire private property. Staff has been in meetings with property owners and acquiring Temporary Construction Easements and rights-of-way as needed.

In 2019, the Federal government allocated \$3.3 million for this Project, with a Town match of \$201,000; and, in 2021, the Federal government increased its Project allocation to \$5.2 million with a Town match of \$319,000.

Mr. Kulaga provided a project timeline, beginning with a Road Safety Assessment in 2014. At that time, it was determined that Avenida del Yaqui was deteriorating. Staff subsequently applied for several grants, originally a federal TIGER grant. In 2016, this TIGER grant was not awarded. Consequently, the Town applied for a federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality through the Maricopa Association of Governments process. This grant was approved and awarded in 2018. from funds. The Arizona Department of Transportation serves as the Project manager. Public outreach efforts began in 2018 and were delayed in 2020 due to COVID-19. Federal funding has fluctuated over time. A public meeting is scheduled for March 12, 2021 to discuss project details and receive public comments. Construction is anticipated to begin in the Fall and is anticipated to be completed by next summer.

Some residents have indicated a desire to move forward with the project without the bicycle lanes, however bicycle lanes are a Project requirement. Funding for this Project nearly equals the total amount of the Town's General Fund annual expenditures. Should the Council only desire to repave and restripe Avenida del Yaqui, it would cost the Town approximately \$2.2 million.

Dibble Engineering has indicated that there is not enough right-of-way along the Project roadway to allow for on-street parking. Mr. Kulaga read the Town Code related to the prohibition of parking vehicles on sidewalks or public right-of-way. The Town has not enforced this Code, making the policy and practice out of alignment.

The project balance includes resident preferences, intent within the right-of-way, compliance, funding and land, and existing conditions. Mr. Kulaga then reviewed next steps, Project timeline, and Project contact information.

A Councilmember commended staff for their work to date on this Project and for their diligence to try to accommodate the parking needs of residents. The lack of right-of-way in some areas will not allow for on-street parking.

In response to a question regarding the financial impact if the Town were to make street improvements outside of the proposed Project, Mr. Kulaga stated that it would cost approximately \$2.2 million for pavement only. The deterioration of Avenida del Yaqui was identified in 2014 and continues to deteriorate. With the continued deferral of roadway repair and maintenance, the cost to repair the street only increases.

A Councilmember discussed how cities and towns apply for grant funding for various projects that they would otherwise not be able to afford. The Project is to improve the infrastructure, which residents have been requesting for years; and emphasized that the Project affects all Town residents.

In response to a question regarding on-going maintenance of potholes, Vince Gibbons, Dibble



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Engineering representative, stated that on-going pothole repairs would be the responsibility of the Town. The surface life of the road is anticipated to be 20 years.

Councilmembers discussed how this Project will have a positive impact on future generations. The Town does not have the funding to conduct basic road repairs. The Town is hosting a public meeting at the Mercado on March 12, 2021, regarding this Project.

9. SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE REVIEW

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk, provided a review of solid waste services including current financials, five-year projected revenues and expenditures, rate analysis, and proposed solid waste service rate increase options. In 2019, staff identified that expenditures for solid waste services were exceeding revenues in upcoming years. Fee increases were postponed until the Town secured a contract with a new solid waste services provider who began providing services to the Town last year. The most recent increase in solid waste fees was in 2009. Within the next fiscal year, staff anticipates that expenditures will exceed revenues in the Solid Waste Fund.

Mr. Kulaga outlined upcoming challenges and discussed the following staff recommendations for Council consideration:

- Discontinue quarterly bulk service.
- To continue quarterly bulk service a \$3/month fee would be needed. In addition to rate options.
- Select a rate increase.

Mr. Kulaga outlined various rate increase options. A water bill insert is being mailed to residents asking for their feedback on rate increases. There will be a website survey and residents are welcome to contact staff to convey their feedback.

Should a rate increase ultimately be proposed, to comply with Arizona Revised Statutes, a public notice would be required on April 23, 2021, which is 60 days prior to the fiscal year 2021/2022 final budget adoption that is scheduled for June 24, 2021.

10. CLAIMS

Approval of the check register for February 2021, totaling \$455,448.49.

Motion by Councilmember Soto to approve agenda item G10; second by Councilmember Bravo. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 4-0.

Councilmembers approved the check register for February 2021, totaling \$455,448.49.

H. TOWN MANAGERS' COMMENTS

Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Clerk

- Thanked the Diamondbacks and the Arizona Public Service Company for paying for the purchase and installation of a new Little League scoreboard at Stottlemeyer Park.
- Thanked Public Works staff for clearing the property on Calle Batoua, as approved by Council on February 25, 2021. Neighbors have expressed their gratitude to the Town for clearing the property.

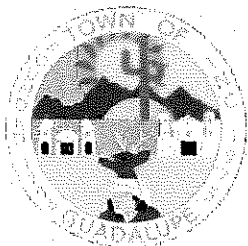
I. COUNCILMEMBERS' COMMENTS

Councilmember Sánchez

- Thanked Public Works staff for clearing the property on Calle Batoua.
- Urged everyone to stay safe and healthy.

Councilmember Bravo

- Thanked staff and residents for the decreasing COVID-19 infection rates; stay safe; get vaccinated; and wash hands.
- A resident thanked the Town for clearing the property on Calle Batoua.



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Councilmember Soto

- o Thanked staff for their commitment to residents.
- o Transparency is important to the Council. Invited residents to contact Councilmembers with any questions they may have.
- o Public meetings are advertised.
- o The town budget is on-line.
- o Urged residents to continue on their path to wellness.


Vice Mayor Vital

- o Thanked Native Health and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe on their vaccination efforts. 305 community members were recently vaccinated. There will be an upcoming vaccination event in April.
- o There is a mask mandate for public areas and businesses in Town.
- o March 12, 2021, 3:00 P.M., Avenida del Yaqui Street Improvement Project public meeting.
- o Urged residents to read the water bill inserts to stay informed.
- o Thanked staff and residents for allowing Councilmember to serve them.

J. ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilmember Soto to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting; second by Councilmember Bravo. Motion passed unanimously on a voice vote 4-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:12 p.m.


Valerie Molina, Mayor

ATTEST


Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Town Clerk

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the March 11, 2021, Town of Guadalupe, Town Council Regular Meeting. I further certify the meeting was duly called and held, and that a quorum was present.


Jeff Kulaga, Town Manager / Town Clerk